

House Resolution 207

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd and Taylor of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Wishing Ms. Ann Nixon Cooper a very happy 107th birthday; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Ann Nixon Cooper celebrated her 107th birthday on January 9, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, the national spotlight fell on Ms. Cooper when then candidate Barack Obama
4 lauded her in his victory speech as "the heartache and the hope" of an America that all too
5 recently denied her and all blacks the most basic rights of society, including the right to vote;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, she is living history, having lived through two world wars in which blacks were
8 not permitted to serve with white soldiers and numerous conflicts when they were, a severe
9 depression, the civil rights movement (she was seven years old when Ms. Ruby Cody Brooks
10 was born, 20 years old when Reverend Joseph Lowery was born, 27 years old when Dr.
11 Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, and 25 years old when Dr. Ralph David Abernathy was
12 born), and has now lived to see the inauguration of a black man as President of the same
13 nation that once denied her entrance to movie theaters; and

14 WHEREAS, while her recent fame came from being recognized on national television, she
15 should as easily be honored for her own efforts during the days of struggle, as she taught
16 reading at Ebenezer Baptist Church and helped form a Girls' Club for African-Americans;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has spoken of and praised her work and longevity; and

19 WHEREAS, although she has been a part of history, and she has known such people as
20 Bobby Kennedy and Nat King Cole, her own estimation of her greatest achievement is her
21 family. She and her dentist husband, Albert Berry Cooper, moved to Atlanta soon after their
22 1922 marriage and raised four children, all of whom had successful lives. She has 15
23 grandchildren, most of whom were present at her birthday celebration; and

24 WHEREAS, given the joys and sorrows, triumphs and tragedies, and ups and downs this fine
25 lady has endured and enjoyed, it is only right and proper that the members of this body wish
26 her a very happy birthday and commend her on a life well lived.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body commend Ms. Ann Nixon Cooper on the event of her 107th
29 birthday and wish her much happiness in the future.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Ann Nixon Cooper.